

Senate Resolution 89

By: Senator Douglas of the 17th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Mr. Richard Ingram on earning his commission as Second
2 Lieutenant in the United States Army; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Second Lieutenant Richard Ingram is the first severely wounded soldier from
4 the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq to overcome amputation and become an officer; and

5 WHEREAS, Lt. Ingram joined the Army National Guard in 2002, while also attending
6 school at North Georgia College and State University in Dahlonega, Georgia; and

7 WHEREAS, in 2005, Lt. Ingram's 48th Infantry Brigade was called to Iraq and he put his
8 studies and his life on hold to preserve the ideals of freedom and democracy; and

9 WHEREAS, while patrolling the town of Yusufiyah, just south of Baghdad, on July 20,
10 2005, Lt. Ingram's vehicle was struck by a roadside bomb, causing injuries that forced the
11 amputation of Lt. Ingram's left arm; and

12 WHEREAS, after returning to the United States for medical treatment, Lt. Ingram retired on
13 medical grounds and resumed his courses at North Georgia, but refused to let his dream of
14 serving his country and defending freedom end; and

15 WHEREAS, in 2007, Lt. Ingram served the State of Georgia as an intern to Senator John
16 Douglas and after sharing with the Senator his desire and determination to return to the Army
17 and commission as an officer despite his status as an amputee, the two made a visit to the
18 Army Inspector General in Washington, D.C.; and

19 WHEREAS, after making a case to the Army Inspector General, the long-time policy of
20 refusing officer commissions for severely injured soldiers was changed; and

21 WHEREAS, nearly 4,000 men and women currently belong to the Wounded Warrior
22 Program, soldiers classified as severely wounded by at least a 30 percent disability, 113 of
23 which have continued with military service as either active duty or reserve; and

24 WHEREAS, Lt. Ingram is the first from the Wounded Warrior Program to restart his career
25 as an officer after proving he had the physical ability to lead a platoon despite his injury; and

26 WHEREAS, Lt. Ingram attended the Leadership Development Assessment Course in Fort
27 Lewis, Washington, a required 35 day course in which an Army cadet must demonstrate
28 physical fitness, land navigation, marksmanship, and leadership; and

29 WHEREAS, receiving no special accommodations for his injury, Lt. Ingram finished second
30 in his platoon of 50 cadets, using his high-tech prosthetic arm to perform expert
31 marksmanship and do almost 80 push-ups in two minutes; and

32 WHEREAS, after having taken his oath of office as a second lieutenant on December 13,
33 2008, Lt. Ingram will lead an engineer platoon in the 10th Mountain Division, likely to see
34 combat again in Afghanistan, and hopes to complete Airborne and Ranger school in the
35 future; and

36 WHEREAS, a driven and dedicated soldier with sheer perseverance on the battlefield and
37 back home, Lt. Ingram serves as a role model not only for disabled veterans, but for all
38 Americans; and

39 WHEREAS, this remarkable 25 year old embodies the spirit of service, willing to find
40 meaning in something greater than himself and serving as a guardian of this nation's liberty.

41 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
42 commend Second Lieutenant Richard Ingram for his brave and admirable service in the
43 defense of the United States of America and congratulate him on the distinction of being the
44 first severely wounded soldier to become an officer.

45 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
46 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Second Lieutenant Richard Ingram.